

ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ REVITALIZATION PROJECT VIDEO FORUM FEEDBACK RESULTS

Included are the results from the S,DÁYES Forum. 35 responses were received which represents a little less than 50% of the participants attending the event.

1. Did the forum meet your overall expectations? Yes: 32 No: 0 No Response: 3
Comments (Filled out by 13 participants)

- The event was incredibly moving
- Really enjoyed it
- Exceeded or surpassed expectations (4)
- Exceeded expectations and more - especially the sacredness of the land and importance of language
- So much work has been done in just a few years. So important to see youth learning cultural beliefs
- Videos are sacred offerings that embody peaceful relations, standing together and listening to the truth, shining light on dark times for a brighter future
- Well done – would like to have a little more context in the film of the Salish Nations
- The elder stories were most powerful. I wonder if more could be added to the video of the reef net fishing, grandfather so powerful in movie
- Representation is so important and so grateful to be a witness to it.
- I didn't have expectations

2. What parts of the forum were the most useful in giving you a better understanding of ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ history and culture? (Filled out by 31 participants)

- Learning about the work that is being done
- Your testimony is powerful in its simple truth
- The witness ceremony
- The unapologetic truth of their history and struggle to maintain their teachings
- Presentations and demonstrations of ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ cultural life (revitalization of language with fluent speakers as hosts and presenters, blanket ceremony, tone of respect and thanks
- Witnessing the language being spoken, of giving thanks, hearing elders speak and of course the videos
- Language is the voice of the land – revitalizing indigenous languages is important for giving future generations a voice to express cultural traditions Talks from ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ and the videos. The videos were excellent
- The words of the Elders. The beauty of the video and the quiet invitation to address the truth and engage in reconciliation. The use of the ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ language, the speeches of the witnesses.
- Words spoken by J,Sᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ and ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ, the blanket ceremony, the dances, and of course seeing the films
- The connection between the land and the language of First Nations peoples. The drumming, prayer opening, the videos, and the blanket ceremony.
- Hearing how connected the language is to the land and hearing the language, having ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ members present, telling their stories and sharing their truth

- The love of the land and connection of land and language
- The stories and hearing the language spoken
- Elder stories about the significance of individual species (cedar, salmon, birds) and how the names incorporate in the land.
- Listening to the elders, their language, drumming, and reef net fishing
- The elders
- Personal stories
- Personal stories and videos
- The importance of youth and Elders
- All sharings, and especially what the locals have done to date
- The story of the reef net fishery and how it was supplanted by Settler fisheries
- Seeing the escape hole in the fish net won my heart
- The video was not only so informative but emotive and truly though provoking with clear focus throughout
- The videos, hearing the elders share their wisdom, stories, and truths
- The videos (2)
- The main movie and closing statement of the Elders
- The second and third films
- The last film
- The film and hearing from the people involved
- The past in English

3. What parts of the Forum did you think were weakest or didn't work? (filled out by 16 participants)

- None (4)
- Nothing. I have lived in the HUL'QUMI'NUM territory for 20 years and worked with Elders there - just different as most of my experience has been on Penalakut Island.
- We need more of these. This is a good start.
- This is an excellent start. I wouldn't change anything
- All of it was good. The lack of input from the audience.
- Not sure as I am a visitor to this community. It felt just right.
- The heat
- People that did not show up with tickets or left part way through leaving empty seats
- Digital, tech issues took away from the videos
- Personal experiences of the Elders
- Maybe highlighting more youth voices
- For witnesses, maybe a young person would have been good. I was uncomfortable with the conservation speaker (felt patronizing)
- Would really love to see the animation film fleshed out more. I understand it is a work in progress however am hoping there is more to come.

4. What recommendations/suggestions do you have to improve future Forums of this nature?
(filled out by 18 participants)

- It was perfect as it was
- Keep up the format.
- I would like to be part of teaching on the land. I'm not one for indoor events but this was good for reaching so many people.
- Wonderful demonstration of community collaboration to host this event- a model for other communities. An honor to witness reconcili-action. Important work today - my gratitude
- Keep up the good work, especially the youth who will inherit this land having a crucial part.
- Keep going. I wish you courage and the grace of reciprocity and authentic collaboration from settlers.
- More of them to get the word out
- Shorter time frame if at all possible.
- Expand the number of participants and the time – maybe a whole day event where more of us can participate in cultural practices with the W̱SÁNEĆ teaching us.
- Try to do another event in cooler weather (fall or spring). Climate action with First Nations. Involvement of First Nations with their history of the Pender's.
- An outdoor space, perhaps everyone sitting in a circle on the earth.
- More time for input from the audience
- More intercultural interaction. I think we need guidance to become aware of our biases and assumptions as settlers and to learn how to care for the land and resources in traditional ways.
- Maybe presenting a more definitive way for people to become involved in next actions
- Make available tangible opportunities that can be undertaken at the end of the presentation
- A language workshop. Would love to learn more about the language and pronunciations.
- A dance workshop. Would be great to learn songs and dances.
- Land back focus. Salish Sea focus
- Better tech. Everything else was incredible.

5. Did the videos offer hope of reconcili-action and a way forward – living in harmony with the land
Yes: 30 No: 0 No Response: 3
Not Really: 2 (It's a beginning) (Maybe more actual recommendations)
Can you suggest ways you can personally support reconcili-action? (filled out by 19 participants)

- I can start by changing some of my attitudes and stepping out of the shadows
- I'm passionate about relationships among settlers – when they live more in harmony then they can relate to reconciliation actions.
- I can honor how I interact with the land and how I stand for the land and its inhabitants past, present, and future. I'd like to explore a relationship with the S,DÁYES TRC so I can be part of more reconcili-action, because other than what I do with myself and my own circle, I don't know where to start.
- Continue to be involved in the reconciliation circle and promote reconciliation in my work
- Continue learning, listening, being involved in the reconciliation circle, nurturing the land, and speaking out against racism and exploitation.

- Attending more events like this to learn how to get involved. Talking about the film and W̱SÁNEĆ history and culture with other settlers.
- Taking part in much of what is organized for the future.
- Learn the language. Pay rent. Host events and share their stories to spread the knowledge.
- To be more involved with and go to group meetings and events of Island groups. I have been planting camas and will continue starting native plants for Island projects
- Plant native species, help protect land from development, and welcome First Nations to protected lands
- I am interested in helping to restore native habitats so that access to traditional gathering can happen for the people of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation.
- I am helping to purchase and protect with a covenant the Kingfisher Forest like we successfully did with the Flycatcher Forest.
- Providing money or volunteer time to support events and projects, learning and changing the way we view land ownership and caretaking, constantly supporting and respecting First Nations teachings which are so very key in healing the world from climate change and colonization.
- Advocate for changes in fisheries control, showing tolerance for people who are just learning about issues in reconciliation, and encouraging others to get involved.
- I really enjoyed Mary Ann's presentation helping to learn the words. Brilliant. Also enjoyed the Witnesses. Great to learn from different people.
- Need to build further relationships with the Saanich First Nations. An amazing journey.
- I would have liked more reconcili-action ideas presented in the videos or in the talks. As a settler I don't know what W̱SÁNEĆ people think we can do community to community or person to person in a community.
- I would like to see something more regarding the action to get through to the people who do not show up at events like this. How do we overcome ingrained racism and settler/colonist thinking?
- As a college educator, I welcome resources and community experiences to share with my students who are visitors from afar and new settlers. It is important for me to offer a community context that acknowledges and recognizes the role of Indigenous peoples

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is poor, 3 is average and 5 is excellent. Here are the ratings from 35 evaluation forms returned. The 0 category means the item as not filled in.

A) Video: “CELÁNENS TFE TETÁCES”

0 1 2 3 4 5

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Was interesting and informative	0				4	31
The storyline flowed well and was well told	1				10	24
The video gave a clear history of how colonization disrupted the traditional WSÁNEĆ way of life and their traditional connection to TETÁCES	0			2	7	26
The video offers hope of a way forward – living in harmony with the land	3			3	4	26

A) VIDEO: “Specific Island Stories”

0 1 2 3 4 5

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Was interesting and informative	4			2	6	23
The storyline flowed well and was well told	7			2	6	20
The video highlighted the importance of the Island to WSÁNEĆ life & culture	6				7	22

A) VIDEO: “The Creation Story”

0 1 2 3 4 5

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Was interesting and informative	2			8		25
The storyline flowed well and was well told	3		1	3	8	20
The video highlighted the importance of “Islands of the Deep” to WSÁNEĆ life and culture	2		1	1	8	23

B) THE FORUM: Organization and impact

0 1 2 3 4 5

	0	1	2	3	4	5
The forum was well organized and moderated	2				19	20
The forum was impactful	4			2	9	20
The forum gave ample time to ask questions and share opinions	4	8	2	11	6	4
The forum raised reconcili-action items for future discussion	2	2	2	6	12	11

6. Do you have any other comments to share with us to expand on your responses above or to help us in evaluating the Forums? (Filled out by 13 participants)

- Thank you. I feel truly humbled to have attended
- Really enjoyed it and look forward to more in the future. I’m inspired to do reconcili-action whatever will work.
- I was so pleased to see Adam Olsen (SFHENEP) here
- Embracing Indigenous ways, listening to ancestors wisdom carried forward is the key to responding to climate problems – listening to the land. Language is the voice of the land (respect, reciprocity, kinship, relations)
- I love the idea of a living history with the videos changing as more of the story is told.
- It was wonderful to get a full picture of the relationships that have been strengthened by the project itself, including more and more people along the way.
- Please keep the settlers engaged and continue the learning opportunities

- Stelly X High School opened its doors for the Yellow Wolf Pow Wow to take it over in August. Great reconciliation action for all school districts to emulate.
- The creation story was lovely and so good to be heard in the vernacular- but English subtitles would have helped my understanding.
- Curious to know what happened to relationship with W̱SÁNEĆ people who lived in the Islands now called San Juans- Lummi people relations and to other HUL'QUMI'NUM's
- It would have been easier to respond to each film if we had taken a two minute to fill in the form before the next film. They blended a little in my mind.
- For someone with hearing aids, others speaking in the dark, narrating the videos is very difficult to hear.
- How can I help. Can I get copies to show at my events – “Renewing the Future”?

Could you please tell us a little about yourself?

a. Forum You Attended: S,DÁYES (Pender): 35 SḴFÁḴ (Mayne) ṮEḴTEḴSEN(Saturna)

b. Island Connection: Island Resident: 28 Visitor: 6 W̱SÁNEĆ Participant :1

c. Age: Youth (Under 20): 1 Adult: 12 Senior (+60): 22


CARD RESPONSE

There were 13 cards filled out and returned. Included are the ideas and comments received, many reinforcing the comments in the feedback form but with a few more concrete ideas for action

IDEAS: (filled out by 10 participants)

- Thank you for a wonderful day. More relating!
- I just want to say how important today was for reconciliation and connection for people whose traditional land this is, and for visitor's to learn from Indigenous people and highlight what we have to offer and is needed in colonized spaces.
- Share the learning from my journey to reconcili-action
- Make space for these stories and films
- Learn the language
- Focus on " a healthy place for the future"
- Share and work together with other reconciliation projects throughout the CRD
- I very much want a S,DÁYES sign to replace the sign the business association put up with no public consultation
- Official renaming of S,DÁYES
- Signs for SENĆOŦEN place names at the places Mary Anne named for us,
- Work on a campaign to buy back Poets Cove and or other space on S,DÁYES to be used as a healing centre and community economic development joint venture.
- More policy advocacy to support "Real land back"!
- Pay rent, grow native plants and make them available
- More music and visiting between peoples. Working on land restoration together
- Gicel, CBMF, school plus WSÁNEĆ youth music jam with WSÁNEĆ elders
- Would love to support the youth engagement program between the schools.
- More joint youth events – 3 sailing boats with 4 to 6 youth per boat on overnights or just a day sailing together.
- For the film – how the nets were made Cedar?, Kelp?, Floats?
- Deeper explanation of reef net fishing, how it works, what it means culturally, how it fits into the ecosystem. How to go forward. Maybe another video or web story?
- Relationship with other First Nations – thank you for the talk about trade, blankets.
- Is there a possibility of a presentation show casing the actions already taken (videos or photos of the salmon cookouts, the kids joint activities, the 13 moon calendar installations, etc. This could be inspirational for new thrusts in the future.
- How do settlers "welcome" the people whose land/territory they have been part of for thousands of years.

COMMENTS: (filled out by 10 participants)

- Thank you to all of you
- Wonderful, impactful films. Such a love of the land and the language is the land!
- All my life I've seen people behave as if they were asleep, unaware that the world is alive around them. Now I see people who see. 
- I learned new words. "The names of the islands tell you something about what each Island is" J'SINTEN 2022 Aug 17
- Witnessing was wonderful
- Favorite part of the forum was the witness ceremonies/speeches and dances as that was new. I have taught much of the Indigenous history in Universities and one's disconnect and acknowledgement of being white and privileged is important to address. How do we become "relatives" again. Thanks for bringing all this to the surface for so many.
- I found the re-engagement of youth into the reef netting process to be the most compelling segment. History is important and necessary and required knowledge for everyone. But I think everyone needs to see a path forward and the engagement in schools and among youth is inspiring and compelling.
- Focus on decolonization and work on connecting conservation trust to cultural priorities ie. reopening reef net fisheries
- Change the name to S,DÁYES
- Videos were great but some redundancies
- My late husband helped build the community hall, working with Victor Reese (born in the Skeena River area). He was a carver who helped women carve the bear mother poles in 1999. Victor showed us how to make carving tools out of old files, etc. from my husband's workshop.